

Workshop One

Population, Development, and Policy: A Follow-Up Workshop

A Summer Seminar workshop, held June 2007, explored the economic consequences of changes in population age structure. The emphasis was on National Transfer Accounts (NTA) as the research methodology and the demographic dividend as the conceptual framework.

Rapid fertility decline changes a population's age structure, reducing the number of dependent children relative to the number of adults, while during the early stages, the number of elderly remains small. This change in age structure is often referred to as the demographic dividend because the large working-age population and small numbers of dependent children and elderly hold the potential for increased earnings, savings, and investments, which can fuel economic growth.

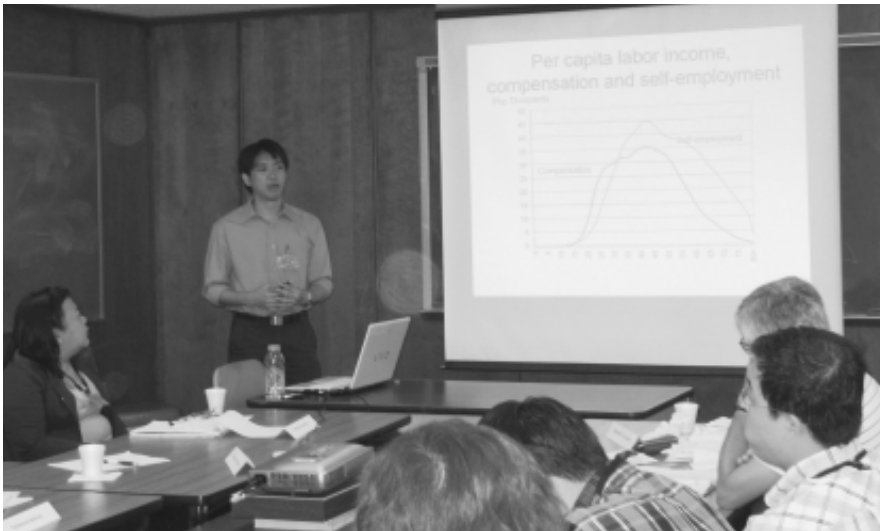
Research using several methodologies suggests that the demographic dividend can account for a substantial portion of the rapid economic growth experienced in the so-called "tiger economies" of East Asia during the 1980s and 1990s. The 2007 Summer Seminar workshop reviewed these methods but focused on the construction of National Transfer Accounts, which allocate all economic inflows and outflows to single age groups in order to estimate levels of intergenerational transfers and economic dependency.

The June 2008 workshop is a follow-up to the 2007 workshop. Representatives from seven countries that participated in the 2007 workshop have been invited to return in 2008 to report on the research completed during the year and are requested to apply for the 2008 workshop. In addition to reviewing their findings, the 2008 participants will conduct comparative analysis, will decide whether to collaborate on an integrated report for formal publication or to disseminate their findings in some other written form, and will provide the workshop coordinators and resource persons with feedback on educational materials designed for use in a wide range of academic and policy settings. They will also prepare for in-country policy seminars to report on their results. More information about this project is available on the NTA website—www.ntaccounts.org.

The 2007 and 2008 workshops are supported by a generous grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

■ Who Should Attend?

Although most of the participants for the 2008 workshop will be representatives from the teams that participated in 2007, a few open places are available for policymakers or qualified researchers who have experience relevant to constructing National Transfer Accounts and who wish to participate in comparative studies. Appropriate policymakers would be representatives from government agencies or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with population policy and/or economic development, media representatives who specialize in these topics, or academics who conduct policy analysis of population change and economic development. Qualified researchers must have been involved in construction of an NTA and have results to report during the workshop.



A participant from the Philippines presents his research results on labor income to the workshop.

■ Workshop Objectives

- Report on research completed since the 2007 workshop
- Plan and conduct comparative analyses
- Decide on the most appropriate form of written dissemination of results
- Prepare for in-country policy seminars
- Provide the workshop coordinators with feedback on educational materials

■ Coordinators

Andrew Mason (Ph.D. University of Michigan) is a Senior Fellow in Population and Health Studies at the East-West Center and a Professor of Economics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is currently co-principal investigator of an international project on the demographic dividend involving scholars from more than 20 countries. Dr. Mason developed some of the major methodologies used to study the demographic dividend.

Karen Oppenheim Mason (Ph.D. University of Chicago) is an Adjunct Senior Fellow in Population and Health Studies at the East-West Center and an Affiliated Graduate Faculty member in Population Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. A sociologist by training, Dr.

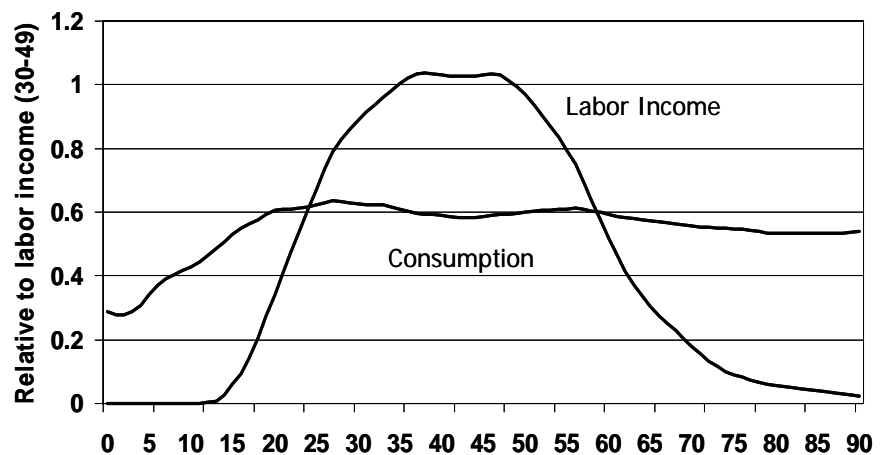
Mason is an internationally recognized expert on population and gender issues and has written widely on gender and family change in Asia.

■ Resource Persons

Sang-Hyop Lee (Ph.D. Michigan State University) is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Fellow in Population and Health Studies at the East-West Center. His work on labor markets, health, and population has been published in numerous journals, prestigious handbook series, and edited books.

Amonthep Chawla (Ph.D. expected December 2007, University of Hawaii at Manoa) is an expert on National Transfer Accounts who was heavily involved in the 2007 Summer Seminar workshop. At the time of the 2008 workshop, he will be a visiting scholar at the Nihon University Population Research Institute, Tokyo, and the East-West Center, Honolulu.

The Economic Lifecycle



Note: Based on estimates for Costa Rica, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Thailand.

Dependency arises because consumption exceeds labor productivity at young and old ages.